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# THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vol. 11, No. 9

NOVEMBER, 1942

St. Louis, Mo.

## GOOD ATTENDANCE OF REA MEN AT SAFETY CONGRESS

A good number of REA directors, superintendents and linemen attended the 31st National Safety Congress in Chicago. The Safety and Job Training Supervisors, who had been in session the week before in St. Louis were there, listening, taking notes and talking.

One of the most interesting sessions was the symposium on "War Problems for the Public Utilities Safety Engineer." The title doesn't fully indicate all the matters that were considered. Some of them concerned the difficulties of getting proper safety equipment. There is no need yet to worry about rubber gloves. Manufacturers are supplied with sufficient crude rubber to meet our needs for some time. When the shortage becomes more acute, synthetic rubber will be used for such things as rubber blankets and line-covering material, saving what crude rubber is available for rubber gloves.

But first aid kit containers are being made of wood now and some will be made of plastic. These may be more bulky and less durable. It means that better care must be taken of the kits we have. Linemen's tools and equipment are limited to some extent because of the demands of the armed services

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY ADMINISTRATOR

St. Louis, Mo.  
October 18, 1942

Mr. Benj. F. Snively  
Supervisor, Illinois REA Safety  
& Job Training Committee  
113 E. Rutledge Street  
Petersburg, Illinois

Dear Mr. Snively:

I want to send this note to acknowledge the resolution adopted at the First REA Safety and Job Training Supervisors' Conference on October 23, 1942. I have read the resolution with keen interest and shall bear in mind its contents.

It was a pleasure to meet you gentlemen, and I wish you continued success in your Safety and Job Training work.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Slattery  
Administrator

(A story on the resolution appears in the supplement to this issue of the Lineman)

## SIXTY ATTEND REA LUNCHEON AT CHICAGO SAFETY CONGRESS

Nearly 60 REA superintendents, directors, linemen, and REA Safety and Job Training Supervisors and guests attended the REA Luncheon which was held in the Sherman Hotel in Chicago in connection with the 31st National Safety Congress. For the first time since these annual luncheons began representatives from the Department of Agriculture were present. Mr. Carl Herrick, Chief of Personnel Relations and Safety, in

the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Charles Fergusson, Safety Specialist, attended.

The theme of the informal luncheon talks, naturally, was Safety and Job Training. Both Mr. Herrick and Mr. Fergusson added their encouragement. Dave Davenport, as usual, objected to being limited in time, but he was permitted to pick on "Andy" Anderson, the hot-line tool demonstrator. He wanted Anderson to tell him,

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Published Monthly in the Interest of Safety  
for Employees of REA Systems.

David A. Fleming, Editor

## NOW LET US COORDINATE

The first National REA Safety and Job Training Supervisors' Conference is now history. The family is growing. Although the oldest, from the point of service, is only 16 months, there are already 13 States in the program.

Of course some have faltered in their first steps. There was no precedent to guide them, and mistakes were made. Not every obstacle could have been anticipated. But that is how we learn - by our experience.

But we also learn by the experience of others. We must share those experiences. All programs must be coordinated, and the best of each adopted by all.

Such a plan was in fact adopted by the supervisors. Everything, be it a method of working, a piece of equipment, suggestions affecting the program, would be discussed with each cooperative in the State, then sent to the Safety Unit which in turn would forward it to all State committees for comment and criticism throughout their State.

To make a real success of the program, we must help each other and pull together. One speaker at the conference ably made the point in a verse he quoted:

"It's not the individual  
Nor the army as a whole  
But the everlasting teamwork  
Of every blooming soul."

Administrator Slattery summed it up in his address in the one word: "COOPERATION."

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## LUNCHEON (Continued)

step by step, how to put on a coat. This was done to show the need for a breakdown of each job, an essential in training new men.

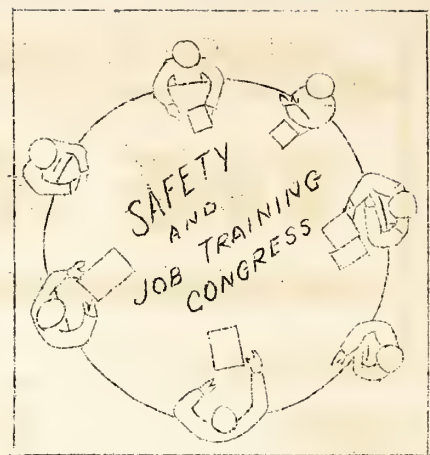
Almost everyone at the luncheon had attended the morning classes on War Safety Training conducted by a panel consultant of the War Manpower Commission. The sessions on

Foundation Stones of Teaching and Accelerated Safety Training emphasized the need for speeding up the customary peace-time methods of training employees, and showed where these methods might be improved. An exposition and demonstration of job training instruction, job relations training and job methods

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PRODUCTION STOPS WHEN SAFETY STOPS



## CONFERENCE (Continued)

and defense manufacturers. The warning was given that extra-good care be taken of present tools and equipment. Some repairs can be made. But deep burns and deep cuts in pliers, for example, cannot be repaired. These must be used carefully and only for the purpose for which they are intended.

Leather for safety straps is in great demand and a shortage of good leather may develop. Fiber is regarded as an uncertain quantity, because fiber belts are put together with rubber cement. Besides, fiber itself may be hard to get.

The Congress in every respect was a War Congress. Quite a number of old friends appeared in uniform. Speakers and presiding officers had high military titles. The main theme of the Congress was Conservation of Manpower for War Power.

The Congress is regarded as the best held yet. It lacked the spaciousness of former congresses for exhibits and for milling around and meeting people. But the fact that the congress was limited to three days instead of the customary week, made it more of a working congress.

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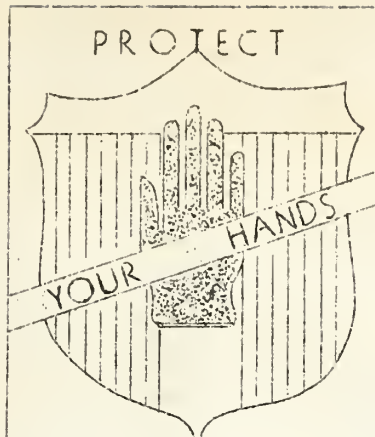
AN INJURED WORKMAN IS AS  
BAD FOR THE NATION'S  
DEFENSE EFFORT AS A  
WOUNDED SOLDIER.



The article, "Story of Accident that Wasn't There," in the October issue of the Lineman brought reports of several "near accidents," two of which are related here. Meantime, send in more such experiences. Names will not be published, unless the writer makes specific request.

A. Live line tools were being demonstrated at a safety meeting and the Cooperative, against their better judgment and in line with the live line tool demonstrator's practice, decided to try working these tools without rubber gloves. While tying in the conductor the tie stick slipped pulling the tie wire over against the pole. Another lineman happened to touch the neutral at this time and received a severe jolt from the surge but fortunately had his safety around the pole. "After such an occurrence," continues the superintendent, "one begins to numerate the possible serious accidents which might develop. This little incident has, beyond all doubt, proven to our lineman and myself the necessity of wearing rubber gloves at all times."

B. A lineman had taken his position on a pole and had just belted in when the single phase primary conductor dropped off the insulator. The conductor fell on his safety belt and upon hitting the belt bounced up again. The lineman leaned away from the pole and swung his arm backwards. The conductor came down again on the safety belt and bounced up again. The lineman was scared stiff and to say the least was in a serious predicament. He couldn't grab the conductor because he didn't have his rubber



### THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

1. Road widening necessitated moving a line. The lineman in charge de-energized the line and placed protective grounds at the point of disconnection, about two miles from where the road work was going on. Several hours later the lineman went back to the point of disconnection, and removed the grounds to heat up the line for the noon hour. The lineman then returned to the work area. Soon, completely forgetting that the line now was hot, he went up a pole to adjust some wires. He suffered severe BURNS ON A HAND and a foot.

2. The job was to remove a broken cut-out and a burned out transformer. The jumper had been removed, and the lineman was working on the cut-out when the jumper came in contact with the phase wire. Contrary to instructions, the victim was not wearing his rubber gloves. The BURNS WERE ON A HAND and a leg.

3. During the installation of a sectionalizing cut-out at a single phase top on a three-phase pole, the top jumper, which had been disconnected, flipped into an ener-

### LINEMAN'S GREATEST ENEMY PUT TO ROUT

General Rubber Gloves and Colonel Protective Grounds succeeded in routing the enemy Electric Shock.

The call sounded in the June-July REA Lineman for more volunteers to wear rubber gloves or install protective grounds was answered by hundreds of linemen. These reinforcements stopped the drive conducted by Field Marshall Summer, and succeeded in wiping out the bridge-heads established last June and July.

The rout was not accomplished, however, without casualties. Fourteen disabilities - some permanent - and three fatalities are listed. Experts commenting on the strategy and tactics of the rout say those casualties could not have happened if the troops had been more disciplined, particularly if they had followed more carefully the directions laid down by General Rubber Gloves and Colonel Protective Grounds. Experts also found strong evidence that the enemy's subversive propagandists, It-Can't-Happen-To-Me and They-Are-Unnecessary, had gotten in their work.

The enemy Electric Shock is not through yet, however. Agents behind the lines report that forces are being regrouped for another attack before our ally Winter can enter the field. We are not underestimating the cunning and daring of the enemy. It is even possible another push will be tried in the colder months. But we are satisfied we can stop the propagandists It-Can't-Happen-To-Me and They-Are-Unnecessary, and with the backing of our continuously offensive-minded General Rubber Gloves and Colonel Protective Grounds, we will be able forever to keep Electric Shock defeated.

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(Turn to AVOIDED page 4)

## AVOIDED (Continued)

gized phase, and came in contact with the lineman at the same time. The lineman was electrocuted. The BURNS WERE ON A HAND and leg.

4. Insulators were being changed on primary fuse cut-outs at a sub-station. The gap switches were locked open, but the lightning arrester leads, which take off ahead of the switch, remained energized. After the insulators were changed, the lineman went higher on the ladder and was standing backward with one foot resting on the angle iron structure on which the lightning arresters are mounted. The lineman thinks his foot resting on the ladder slipped, causing him to throw up his left hand. It went close enough to the arrester lead to cause a flash. He suffered severe burns on an arm and a leg.

5. A lineman was removing conductors from a five year old cedar pole on an acquired system. When the strain was released the pole fell, carrying the lineman with it. He suffered a fractured hand and foot.

6. A man clearing brush cut one of his legs with the axe.

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## LUNCHEON (Continued)

training, brought out that teaching safety must be done as a part of the job, rather than as additional to the job. That, by the way, has always been the REA idea. Efficiency and safety are synonymous and inseparable.

States represented at the luncheon were Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Each year has seen a larger REA representation at the Safety Congress, indicating the growing interest in safety among REA co-ops.

## ACCIDENT FREQUENCY ON REA SYSTEMS - 10th MONTH (Disabling Injuries per 10,000 miles of energized lines)

REGION	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
I	2.2	2.6
II	0.3	4.5
III	1.1	3.7
IV	1.3	1.1
V	2.1	5.0
VI	1.0	8.3
VII	1.1	4.1
VIII	1.0	7.4
IX	4.7	4.4
X	3.1	2.4
U.S.	1.7	4.2

## DISCUSSION (Continued)

gloves on. He couldn't reach for his gloves because he was afraid the conductor would slide against his body. He couldn't inch up on the pole because his legs might hit the conductor. And all the time the energized phase was bouncing up and down in front of him. Fortunately another lineman was on the pole with him and he reached for his gloves and caught the conductor before it caused any damage. And if the lineman had been on the pole alone? The conductor may have come to rest or it may have bounced against the lineman. Both of the linemen who experienced this near accident now agree that wearing rubber gloves from the ground up is best.

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## A FINE IDEA

From Agra Lite Cooperative, Benson, Minn., Victor Hanson, System Superintendent:

"Your proposal to send the 'REA Lineman' to former cooperative employees who are now in the service is a fine idea. I am sure they will appreciate receiving it."

## THOSE WHO ATTENDED SAFETY & JOB TRAINING CONFERENCE

J. W. Morrow  
Supervisor, Iowa  
Benj. F. Snively  
Supervisor, Illinois  
Fred W. White, Jr.  
Supervisor, Mississippi  
L. A. Ehmsen  
Supervisor, Ohio  
E. F. Nauert  
Supervisor, Texas  
L. C. Meyer  
Supervisor, Minnesota  
Kenneth Mostoller  
Supervisor, Wisconsin  
W. C. Dale  
Chairman, Kentucky  
G. L. Bridwell  
Secy.-Treas., Kentucky  
J. E. Wilder  
Chairman, Texas  
R. D. Palmer  
Supt., Iowa 53  
Charles Cox  
Line Foreman, Iowa 53  
Irvin L. Nervig  
Supt., Iowa 56  
C. V. Courtney  
Line Foreman, Iowa 56  
J. B. Gram  
Line Foreman, Idaho 10  
J. Perry Norris  
Oklahoma A & M College  
Earl F. Ehlers  
Hampton, Iowa

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## USES LINEMAN

From Denton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Denton, Tex., Osie Cauble, Superintendent:

"We greatly appreciate the REA Lineman, and are glad that it is to be printed monthly in the future. The Lineman is a help in holding safety meetings and is very helpful in accident prevention. Keep the good work up. More power to the editor and safety department."

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## FROM A PURE DOLLAR AND CENTS STANDPOINT - SAFETY PAYS



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION  
Vol. 11, No. 9

November, 1942

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
St. Louis, Mo.

## REA SAFETY AND JOB TRAINING SUPERVISORS' CONFERENCE VOTED HUGE SUCCESS; EVERY STATE HAVING SUPERVISORS REPRESENTED; TWO NIGHT SESSIONS ARE ADDED

After a strenuous program to which two night sessions had to be added, and which included an address by Mr. Harry Slattery, Administrator of the REA, the First National REA Safety and Job Training Supervisors' Conference, held in St. Louis October 19 to 24, was voted a huge success.

D. A. Fleming, Head of the Labor Relations and Safety Section of the REA, welcomed the delegates, announced the sessions would be informal, and asked the men to take off their coats, roll up their sleeves and let their hair down. It was to be a family affair. Opening addresses were made by M. M. Samuels, Chief of the REA Technical Standards Division, George Long and C. D. Blair, Assistant Chiefs, Cooperatives' Operations Division, R. F. Eaton, Director of First Aid and Water Safety, Midwestern Section, American Red Cross, and J. Perry Norris, Assistant State Supervisor, Trade and Industrial Education in Oklahoma.

There is no conflict between safety and economy, Mr. Samuels told the conference. Safe designs are economical in the long run, particularly in the REA. Systems can afford to spend much more money to make things safe, and it would pay them to spend more money to operate them safely. The idea of safety, he added, should be injected into the blood, and ought to be acquired as an instinct.

Included in the program were 18 hours of job instructor training. These sessions were conducted by Mr. C. T. Cardwell, Assistant District Representative, Training Within Industry



Branch, War Manpower Commission. Mr. Cardwell's meetings were regarded as highly valuable. His work was additionally appreciated because of the difficulty of having to conduct his sessions between other parts of the program.

The address by Professor E. W. Lehmann, Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the University of Illinois, was another feature. Professor Lehmann stressed the need of extending the accident prevention program into the farm and farm home, and gave suggestions on how this could be done.

Other sessions were devoted to talks with questions and answers, covering such matters as Fundamentals of a Safety Program, Procedure for a Safety and Job Training Program, Insurance, Priorities on Safety Equipment, Technical Standards, Design and Construction, Importance of Grounds, Operation Memoranda, Development of a Safety Program, various procedures and activities of individual State programs and information about safety to the Press and Public. Considerable discussion centered around material made available by Iowa State College, the National Park Service, Fortune Magazine, Coronet Magazine, U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company, Copper Wire Engineering Association, and the Kentucky Safety and Job Training Committee.

The conference was closed with the address of Administrator Slattery. Cooperative spirit, Mr. Slattery said, made the REA what it is. It would do bigger things in the future, he said, and added that the safety program, like all other objectives of the REA, will not be achieved without it. "Ways and means must be found," he asserted, "to expand the Safety and Job Training Program."

Intense interest marked every session. Much of the discussion

related to coordinating the activities of the individual State programs. Problems were presented from both the points of view of the supervisors and the REA.

The Den Room of the hotel where the conference was held was hung with posters and exhibits bearing on accidents and the necessity to reduce them to conserve manpower for the war.

Two superintendents, two line foremen and a former co-op lineman attended from Iowa. One line foreman came from Idaho. The Kentucky committee was represented by its chairman, and secretary-treasurer, and the Oklahoma committee was represented by a member of the State Board for Vocational Education.

Social activities of the conference were limited to a quick trip to the famous St. Louis Zoo, and a home-cooked baked bean supper at the home of Bill Rushlow.

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R. D. Palmer, Superintendent of Iowa 53 Linn, generously volunteered to print this supplement to "The REA Lineman." Mr. Palmer also did much to help the Committee frame the resolutions.

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Ed Nauert, Texas Supervisor, said next time he comes to a Supervisors' Conference he will check his bag in the hotel lobby. He said he was so busy he didn't have time to sleep in the room he paid for.

\* \* \* \*

## PLAN TO ATTEND THE NEXT CONFERENCE!

Sincere hope that REA Administrator Harry Slattery will find a way to continue the Safety and Job Training Conferences and to extend an invitation to each supervisor, project manager or superintendent and line foreman who may be able to attend is expressed in a resolution adopted at the conference and ordered presented to the Administrator through the REA Safety Unit.

The resolutions, drawn up by a committee consisting of B. F. Snively, R. D. Palmer and E. F. Nauert, makes several suggestions, as follows:

1. That pole steps be permitted to be used on all poles having sectionalizing switches;

2. That all switches not protected by a locked or supervised enclosed area be locked in the closed position, except when men are working in the immediate vicinity of such switches;

3. That all field safety supervisors be furnished with a complete library of operating memoranda and current revisions and also a set of revised and indexed construction standards;

4. That a standard procedure be formulated on the opening and closing of circuits;

5. That all poles be kept clear so that there be no interference with ascent or descent of linemen.

The policy of wearing rubber gloves from "the ground up", as contained in Operations Memorandum #22.3, paragraph 7, was endorsed.

"Each man who has been at the conference will return to his job with a little more knowledge, a little better understanding of the broader phases of the all-important safety program," the resolutions state, and the Administrator and D. A.

Fleming are commended for their vision and effort in the promotion of the safety program. W. E. Rushlow is especially praised for the "democratic spirit which (he) fostered" at the conference.

Appreciation also is expressed for "The REA Lineman," and its importance to the development of the safety program, coupled with a hope that a sufficient number of copies will be printed so that each project manager or superintendent, lineman and board member can receive a copy. In recognition of the needs of the times an offer is contained to assist with the Farm and Home Safety Program, Red Cross First Aid Instruction Courses or with the work of any other war agency where training and experience such as these delegates have would be of value.

The resolutions also pledge loyal support to the development of the safety program, to the national war effort, and to other preservation of the democratic way of life.

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J. B. Gram, line foreman from Idaho 10, was the best state booster. We won't forget Idaho! The hotel manager is afraid next year J. B. will bring Josephine. (That's his pet bear!)

\* \* \* \*

Fred White, Mississippi Supervisor, remarked he had never been with a group of men who were more friendly and more earnest in their desire to meet on common ground and discuss common problems.

\* \* \* \*

## SAVE MANPOWER FOR WAR POWER!